

You Can Help!

You can make an important difference by teaming with DCS to become a foster or adoptive parent. Foster and Adoptive parents assist children in daily developmental activities such as:



- Riding a bike
- Going to the library
- School work
- Play
- Participating in Family gatherings and Events

In San Bernardino County, A Home for Me

DCS provides the community with information, training, and support needed to pursue foster care and adoption. Our procedures are flexible, culturally sensitive and responsive to the needs of the community. Staff are available to assist you through the process of becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

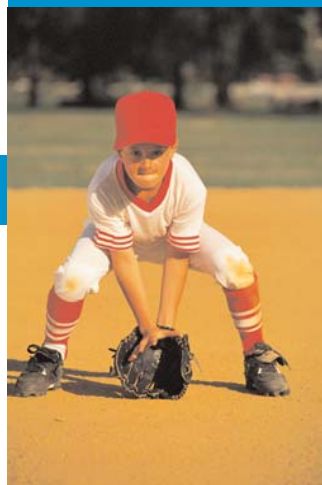
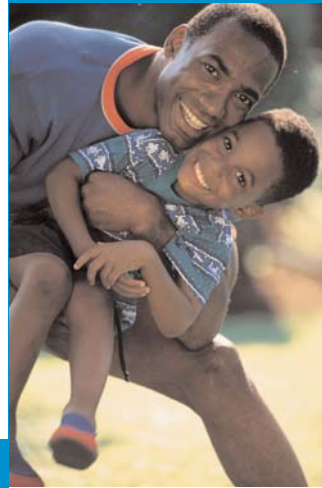
Foster and adoptive parents are encouraged to team with each other and DCS staff to support the child and themselves.

Next Steps

DCS staff regularly schedule foster care and adoption orientations throughout the county. These orientations are designed to describe the roles of foster and adoptive parents.



Foster Hope for a Child



For further information on attending an
Orientation please call
1-800-722-4477

San Bernardino County Department of Children's Services

for Children

The Gift of Caring

Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment
1-800-722-4477

What Does Becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent Mean?

Love, understanding and guidance for a child who needs to develop physically, emotionally and socially.

Opening your home and family to a child who has been abused or neglected.

Venturing into a relationship to guide a child through their growing years.

Embracing a child into the security of your stable home and family.

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is a temporary placement, which assists children in preparing for return to their birth parents or for a more permanent placement such as adoption or guardianship. Social workers visit the home on a regular basis to provide services to support the children's needs. Foster parents receive ongoing financial and medical assistance.

What is Adoption?

Adoption makes it possible for children to become a part of your family legally, as if they were born to you. All children deserve to grow up in a family, but many children cannot return to live with their birth families. Knowledgeable, compassionate social workers will help you and your family explore whether adoption is right for you. Financial and medical assistance is available to most adoptive families as well as training, counseling and emotional support. Yes, you can be single or married.

Do You Know?

In San Bernardino County, hundreds of children are waiting for love and the sense of belonging that only a family can give. Many of these children are five years of age and older, or are members of a sibling set and may have physical, behavioral and/or emotional problems. You can help these children, during times of family crisis, by providing a supportive and caring home.

Concerns & Myths

There are several concerns about foster care and adoption that may prevent many people from accepting "someone else's child".

- Do I have to be rich?
- Can I be single?
- Do I have to have parenting experience?
- Can I love a child who is not my own?

A broad range of people from various backgrounds and income levels have cared for and loved children by becoming foster and adoptive parents.



Reality

It is true that in rearing a child you take a risk. But this is true whether the child is yours by birth or foster care/adoption. Over the years, thousands of families have fostered/adopted children who have grown up to become happy, successful, well-adjusted adults. You can love someone else's child and help him or her to become a happy, healthy, self-confident adult.

Qualities

The most important qualities considered in the selection of foster and adoptive parents are:



- Patience
- Flexibility
- The ability to provide a safe and stable home



Who can become a foster or adoptive parent?

- You can be single or married
- You must be at least 18 years of age
- You may own or rent your home
- You do not need to have children of your own
- You must be self-supporting
- You must pass a criminal background check

